DIEU ET MON DROIT
1905

TELEGRAM FROM
HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VII.

2ND SEPTEMBER, 1905.

Governor General of Canada:

I AM DEEPLY GRATIFIED BY THE EXPRESSION OF LOYALTY ON THE PART OF THE NEWLY INAUGURATED NORTHWEST PROVINCES. PRAY CONVEY TO THEM MY EARNEST HOPE THAT GREAT PROSPERITY MAY BE IN STORE FOR THEM.

EDWARD R. & I.

ADDRESS OF

HIS EXCELLENCY EARL GREY,

Governor General of Canada,

At the Inauguration of the Province of Alberta.

I thank you, Mr. Mayor, and your colleagues who represent the City of Edmonton, for the welcome with which you have received me in my capacity as the representative of His Majesty the King, and for your hope that my good fortune may cause me to pay further visits to your city. I cordially reciprocate the wish to which you have given such kind expression. The pleasure I derived from last night's entertainment was in itself sufficient to make me wish to visit you again. When I looked round that magnificent audience, and reflected that that immense ga hering of happy looking, handsome and prosperous people, and the grace, refinement and distinction of the performance, and of all the arrangements connected with it were of home growth, were all products of the prairie, I knew that the impressions I had already formed were correct that the future of Alberta was abundantly assured.

I consider it a great privilege to be able to take part as the representative of the King at the coming of age festivities of your people, whose assumption of the high responsibilities and obligations which are inseparably attached to British manhood, you celebrate the day.

The day which marks the addition of a new self-governing province to the Dominion, and thus to the galaxy of self-governing

states whose combined brilliance makes the constellation of the British Empire the brightest the world has ever seen, is a red letter day in the history of the Empire. That the Province of Alberta will bring, in ever increasing measure as time goes on, strength and lustre to the British Crown, and prove worthy of the illustrious prince whose name it is your honour to bear, is both my sanguine hope and my confident expectation.

You have referred to the paucity of your population in the past, and to the unborn millions with whom your province is already pregnant. What I have learnt of the fertility of your favoured land causes me to believe your estimate is one to which even the most captious cannot reasonably take exception. Thanks to the invaluable services rendered to your province by your railways, your cold storage facilities, your experimental farms, all of which you owe to the foresight and enterprise of the federal government happily represented to-day in the distinguished person of my prime minister, thanks to these aids, and to your own stout energy, you have now proved to the satisfaction of the entire civilized world that you enjoy in this the province of Alberta, and perhaps in a greater degree than is to be found in land of equal extent in any portion of the world outside of the Dominion, the opportunity, which is within the reach of all who can pay their way here, of making for themselves a happy and comfortable home amid pleasant surroundings, with the inspiring feeling of independence which comes with the full ownership of the land you till, in the healthiest of climates, and under the protection of a justice and freedom loving government. This being now proved, you are justified in anticipating a steady flow of settlers into your province. Many who seek to better their condition in the new world as well as in the old, are counting the

hours until they can embrace with both hands the riches you are able to offer them from out of your abundant treasury. For the riches you offer are the greatest that nature has to bestow upon mankind: namely, the happiness, health, and well being which your soil, your climate and your geographical position offer as a certain and liberal reward to all who are ready to give honest, persevering and intelligent industry to the cultivation of your land

That you may quickly assimilate to yourselves all who come to you in the hope of making for themselves a new home in a new country, and that you may grow up a united, prosperous, cultured, God-fearing and righteous loving people, is the prayer which I, as your Governor-General and representative of the King, venture reverently to make for you from the bottom of my heart.

ADDRESS

OF THE

RIGHT HON. SIR WILFRID LAURIER,

P.C., G.C.M.G., Etc.

PRIME MINISTER OF CANADA,

AT THE INAUGURATION OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBERTA.

I have an advantage over His Excellency, the Governor-General, who visits this city of Edmonton for the first time; I come here for the second time. It is many years since I was here before, so many years that probably you have forgotten it, but I have not, I can tell you to a day. It is just eleven years this month of September. It was in 1894, when it was my privilege for the first time to visit this immense portion of our common country, which extends from the western shore of the Lake of the Woods to the Rocky Mountains, which for two centuries or more was known as Rupert's Land and the Northwest Territories, and which to-day is springing into existence to take its rank and stand in the Confederation of Canada as the two provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan. Eleven years have passed and if some one had told me at that time that my next visit to the city of Edmonton would be in connection with the auspicious event which has brought here to-day His Excellency the Governor-General and this throng not only from the province but from the neighbouring Province of Saskatchewan, from Manitoba, and from the provinces of the east, and I am proud also to say from our neighbour to the South, the American Republic, I am sure if this had been prophesied then, I could not have believed it.

Eleven years have passed, and, as has been hinted a moment ago by the new Lieut.-Governor of Alberta, many and many changes have taken place. In 1894 the expectations which you indulged in of rapid development for this new territory had not been realized. The sun shone, the rain fell, the soil responded generously to the efforts of the farmer, but markets were far, the means of access were few, the profits of the farmer were scanty and small. Agriculture, upon which all industry depends, agriculture, from which all wealth is derived, was sorely depressed, and it being depressed, everything suffered in consequence.

The city of Winnipeg, the pioneer city, after making a splendid start, had reached the rank of a provincial town and seemed to have reached its furthest possibility. The five cities which now adorn the new provinces, Regina, Moosejaw, Calgary, Edmonton, and Prince Albert were nothing but struggling villages. You know as well as I do that at that time Regina had nothing royal but its name; Moosejaw was not far removed from the primitive condition which its name implied, a name no doubt in which its inhabitants glory; Calgary had made a splendid start, but stood still. Of Edmonton what shall I say? I am sure I will not offend the pride of any citizen when I say I could count upon the fingers of my two hands all the buildings, public and private, which then constituted your town, now the capital of Alberta. But now everything is changed. Gigantic strides are made on all sides over these new provinces. Only eight years ago I had the honour of representing in Parliament the third largest city in Canada, the old City of Quebec, but now, I am sorry to say I have to take a back seat and that honour now belongs to the city of Winnipeg. But in the name of the people of Quebec let me say I am not jealous, and I may also say that the two

largest cities of Canada, Toronto and Montreal, if they are going to keep their supremacy had better look out—or, to use a western phrase, they had better hustle right away.

Nor is this all, Sir, if I look about me in this vast sea of upturned faces I see the determination of a young and vigorous people; I see the calm resolution, the courage, the enthusiasm to face all difficulties, to settle all the problems which may confront this new province. And, if it be true everywhere, it must be more true here in this bracing atmosphere of the prairie that "hope springs eternal in the human breast."

Now, gentlemen, what is the cause of this change? Well, sir, if I were addressing a political audience perhaps I might find many causes for this change. Perhaps also there might be gentlemen on this board platform who cannot agree with me upon these reasons, but this is not a day of political controversy, this is a day of national rejoicing. This is a city where to-day we only remember one thing,—that we are Canadians and British subjects. Therefore, ladies and gentlemen, I will abstain from going into the causes. But, sir, whether we agree or whether we disagree, there is one thing which we all admit that the prosperity of this new province, past, present or future, is undoubtedly connected with the question of transportation, with railway facilities. Well, sir, I will not go further, because perhaps, I might trespass upon the ground from which I wish to abstain.

But, gentlemen, in order to bring out this new province to the standard which we expect it to attain it is necessary that we should have the hearty co-operation of all the people, of all the citizens of Alberta. We must have the co-operation of the old settlers, of the pioneers, the old pioneers chiefly from the province of Ontario who came here when the land was a desert and made the

desert to smile. We must also have the co-operation of the new citizens who come from all parts of the world, to give to Canada, and to Alberta, the benefit of their individuality, of their energy and their enterprise, and since it happens that I have the honour of occupying the position of first servant of the Crown in this country, let me say on behalf of the Crown and with the concurrence of His Excellency, that to these new fellow-countrymen, to these new subjects of the King, I offer the most cordial welcome. I welcome those of our own kith and kin from the old land, I welcome those from the older portions of Europe, I welcome those who come from the neighbouring, the kindred Republic on the other side of the line.

Let me say to one and all, above all to those newly our fellow-countrymen, that the Dominion of Canada is in one respect like the Kingdom of Heaven, those who come at the eleventh hour will receive the same treatment as those who have been in the field for a long time.

We want to share with them our lands, our laws, our civilization. Let them be British subjects, let them take their share in the life of this country, whether it be municipal, provincial or national. Let them be electors as well as citizens. We do not want nor wish that any individual should forget the land of his origin. Let them look to the past, but let them still more look to the future. Let them look to the land of their ancestors, but let them look also to the land of their children. Let them become Canadians, British subjects and give their heart, their soul, their energy and all their power to Canada, to its institutions, and to its King, who like his illustrious mother, is a model constitutional sovereign.

TELEGRAM FROM

THE

RIGHT HONOURABLE ALFRED LYTTELTON

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

LONDON, SEPTEMBER 1ST, 1905.

EARL GREY,

EDMONTON, CANADA.

HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT SEND BEST WISHES FOR PROSPERITY AND ADVANCEMENT OF ALBERTA.

LYTTELTON.